SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Yes, Sir. My question is, whether in Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam section, he is going to introduce new train. In Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Tirupati section, he said that he has added 229 coaches. I am asking him; I am seeking his clarification whether in view of the demand, he is going to introduce any new train or not. This is the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let the question be answered. ...*(Interruptions).*

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I am sorry to hear the hon. Member saying that I misled the House. I want to inform him that I never misled the House nor do I intend doing so in future. That is a correction I want to make. Secondly, he has asked a question whether I am going to introduce a new train. Today, what is the number of passengers 1 am getting for Tirupati or for Visakhapatnam? On a daily average, it is 5457 passengers to Tirupati and 3655 passengers for Visakhapatnam. What is my waitlist average? For Tirupati, it is only 193 and for Visakhapatnam, it is 482. Whether it calls for a new train or a special train is not the question. What is the waitlist on which I must base the introduction of a new train? As it is, it does not call for a new train with reference to the waitlist of the passengers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.87. Shri Motilal Vora. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, go ahead. ...*(Interruptions).*

गेहूं की खरीद

*87. **श्री मोती लाल वोरा** : ††

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी :

क्या **उपभोक्ता मामले, खाध और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) किसानों से गेहूं खरीदने के संबंध में सरकार का लक्ष्य क्या था और सरकार द्वारा कुल कितना गेहूं खरीदा जा सका है;

(ख) निजी कंपनियों द्वारा, विशेषकर पंजाब और हरियाणा की थोक मंडियों से कितनी मात्रा में गेहूं की खरीद की गई;

(ग) सरकार द्वारा हरियाणा और पंजाब की थोक मंडियों से कब और कितनी मात्रा में गेहूं की खरीद की गई;

(घ) खरीदे गेहूं को बरसात से बचाने के लिए कब और क्या व्यवस्था की गई;

(ड) जून, 2007 और उसके बाद हुई वर्षा के कारण कुल कितना गेहूं भीगा है; और

(च) भीगे हुए गेहूं को सड़ने से बचाने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाध और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) से (च) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जा रहा है ।

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††यह प्रश्न मूल रूप से सभा में श्री मोती लाल वोरा द्वारा पूछा गया ।

विवरण

(क) चूंकि न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य प्रचालनों के अधीन सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा खाधान्नों की वसूली खुले रूप में की जाती है इसलिए कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नही किए जाते है । तथापि, रबी विपणन मौसम 2007-08 की शुरुआत से पहले राज्यों के खाध सचिवों द्वारा दिए गए अनुमानों के आधार पर रबी विपणन मौसम 2007-08 के लिए 151.5 लाख टन का अनुमान लगाया गया था । इसके प्रति केंद्रीय पूल के लिए रबी विपणन मौसम 2007-08 में 111.04 लाख टन गेहूं की वसूली की गयी थी ।

(ख) प्रत्येक प्राइवेट कंपनी द्वारा की गई गेहूं की खरीदारी के आंकड़े विभाग में नही रखे जाते हैं । तथापि, गेहूं (कंपनियों अथवा फर्मो या व्यक्तियों द्वारा स्टाक की घोषणा) आदेश, 2007 के अधीन दायर रिटनों के अनुसार (8.8.2007 तक) प्राइवेट कंपनियों, जिन्होंने रबी विपणन मौसम 2007-08 में 50 हजार टन से अधिक गेहूं खरीदा है, द्वारा 18.76 लाख टन गेहूं की खरीदारी की घोषणा की गई है, जिसमें से 74.969 टन गेहूं पंजाब में और 63.763 टन गेहूं हरियाणा में खरीदा गया है । (ग) रबी विपणन मौसम 2007-08 में पहली अप्रैल, 2007 से 15 जून, 2007 तक की अवधि के दौरान पंजाब और हरियाणा की मंडियों से सरकारी एजेंसियों (भारतीय खाध निगम और राज्य एजेंसिया) द्वारा केन्द्रीय पूल के लिए क्रमशः 67.57 लाख टन और 33.46 टन गेहूं की खरीदारी की गई थी ।

(घ) वर्षा द्वारा खाधान्नों को होने वाली क्षति से बचाने के लिए कवर और प्लिंथ में भंडारण करने और सावधानियां बरतने के अनुदेश भारतीय खाध निगम के गुण नियंत्रण मैनुअल में दिए गए हैं । खरीदे गए गेहूं को वर्षा से बचाने के लिए रबी विपणन मौसम 2007-08 की शुरूआत के पहले सभी आवश्यक व्यवस्थाएं की गई थी ।

(ड) भारतीय खाध निगम ने सूचित किया है कि रबी विपणन मौसम 2007-08 में किसी भी क्षेत्र से वर्षा के कारण कोई क्षति होने की रिपोर्ट नही मिली है ।

(च) प्रश्न नही उठता ।

Procurement of wheat

†*87. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:††
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what was Goverment's target for procurement of wheat from farmers and the total quantity of wheat procured by Government;

(b) the quantity of wheat purchased by private companies, particularly from the wholesale markets of Punjab and Haryana;

(c) what was the quantity of wheat purchased by Government from the wholesale markets of Haryana and Punjab and when it was purchased;

(d) what arrangement was made for protecting the purchased wheat from rains and when;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Motilal Vora.

(e) the quantity of wheat which was moistened due to rain occuring in June, 2007 and afterwards; and

(f) steps taken by Government to save the moistened wheat from decaying?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, based on estimates given by State Food Secretaries before the start of the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08, an estimate of 151.5 lakh tonnes was drawn up for procurement in RMS 2007-08. Against this, 111.04 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured in RMS 2007-08 for the Central Pool.

(b) Data regarding the quantity of wheat purchased by each private company is not maintained in the Department. However, as per returns filed under the Wheat (Stock declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order, 2007 (upto 8.8.2007), the purchase of wheat declared by private companies, who have purchased more than 50,000 tonnes each, in RMS 2007-08, is 18.76 lakh tonnes out of which 74,969 tonnes was purchased in Punjab and 63,763 tonnes was purchased in Haryana.

(c) The purchase of wheat for the Central Pool by the Government agencies (FCI and State agencies) from mandies of Punjab and Haryana in RMS 2007-08 during the period 1st April, 2007 to 15th June, 2007 was 67.57 lakh tonnes and 33.46 lakh tonnes respectively.

(d) Instructions for storage in Covered and Plinth, (CAP) and precautions to be taken to avoid damage to foodgrains by rain water are contained in the Quality Control Manual of FCI All necessary arrangements were made before the start of RMS 2007-08 to protect the purchased wheat from rain.

(e) FCI has informed that so for there is no report of any damage on account of rains from any region in RMS 2007-08.

(f) Does not arise.

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : सभापति जी। **…(व्यवधान)…**

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, पहले सवाल के आन्सर नही आए। **…(व्यवधान)…**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, three supplementaries have been asked. We proceed as per our rules. Please go ahead with the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can raise the question again. You have various possibilities. Already, three supplementaries have been answered. Please proceed with Question No. 87. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you are not satisfied with the answer, raise it again, but please proceed ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि **…(व्यवधान)…**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please proceed with the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सभापति जी **...(व्यवधान)...** लेकिन आंसर नही आता **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री सभापति : आप यह सवाल दोबारा उठाइए, मगर अभी नही । **...(व्यवधान)...**Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit -down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सवाल कम आते है**...(व्यवधान)...** लेकिन आंसर नही आया **...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have followed the practice of the Question Hour in allowing three supplementaries. If any honrary Member is dissatisfied with the question and its contents, and the contents of the answer, he is free to avail of the rules to raise the matter again in various forms. Can we now proceed with the rest of the questions? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please let me finish. The Question Hour, today, has been proceeding very smoothly. We have covered very many questions. There is an important question coming up. Shri Motilal Vora. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : माननीय सभापति महोदय**...(व्यवधान)...**

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, the rule says that we must make a mention about having a Half-an-Hour Discussion in the House. So, we are making a mention about having a Half-an-Hour Discussion, which we have brought to the notice of the hon. Chairman. Let it be accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You raise it. I have no problem with that. ...*(Interruptions)*... You raise it.

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, इस बार देश में गेहूं का रिकार्ड उत्पादन हुआ, लगभग 74 करोड़ टन से अधिक का उत्पादन हुआ । भारतीय खाध निगम ने यधपि खरीद का कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नही किया था, लेकिन भारतीय खाध निगम ने मात्र 11 करोड़ टन गेहूं की खरीद की । मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो निजी कम्पनियां हैं, जो निजी व्यवसायी हैं, उन्होंने कितना गेहूं खरीदा? 74 करोड़ टन में से केवल 11 करोड़ टन तो भारतीय खाध निगम ने खरीदा, शेष गेहूं आखिर कहां गया और निजी कम्पनियों ने कितना गेहूं खरीदा?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is true that the total production has gone up, this year, as per the fourth advance report, to some what 74.76 million tonnes. The total procurement, last year, was 9.2 million tonnes. This year, the total procurement has gone up to 11 .4 million tonnes. We have taken a decision about two years back and have written to all the States that previously, there was a compulsion under the APMC Act that the farmer has to sell his produce in the regulated mandi. Sir, that particular provision has been removed and the farmer has got a freedom to sell/ dispose of his produce anywhere in the country, right from a village to mandi. When we took that decision, first time, we had seen that from last year onwards, a number of private parties started entering the open market, and along with the FCI, they also started purchasing. This year, we have got information from the private companies.

Sir, if anybody is buying more than 50,000 tonnes, he has to give this report to the Government, and as per that report, the information which we got is that 18,76,000 tonnes of wheat have been purchased by the private sector, and, as regards Haryana and Punjab, Sir, 74,969 tonnes were purchased in Punjab and 63.763 tonnes were purchased in Haryana.

श्री मोती लाल वोरा : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के जवाब से संतुष्ट हूं और उन्होंने बताया है कि 18.76 लाख टन गेहूं निजी कंपनियों ने खरीदा है । 74 करोड़ मीट्रिक टन में से 11 करोड़ टन गेहूं भारतीय खाध निगम ने खरीदा है और 18 लाख, 76 हजार टन गेहूं निजी कंपनियों ने खरीदा है, तो शेष गेहूं किसने खरीदा हैं?

SHRI SHARAD PA WAR: Sir, there is every possibility that some of the farmers have kept the wheat with them. That is one. Secondly, the information which I have given to this august House is relating to those buyers or traders who have bought above 50,000 tonnes. That information is with me and that has been given. There is every possibility that there may be some small traders. They might have purchased 5,000 tonnes or 3,000 tonnes or 2,000 tonnes like that. They might have also purchased; and because of the new system the farmers started getting better price. The farmers need not depend exclusively on the Food Corporation of India.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में जो आंकड़े दिए है, उनमें दो बातें साफ है । पहली बात यह है कि सरकार का अनुमान था कि 151.5 लाख टन गेहूं की खरीद वह करेगी, लेकिन केवल 111 लाख टन के लगभग खरीद हो पाई है, यानी अनुमान से लगभग 40 लाख टन की खरीद कम हुई है । आज के ही एक अन्य प्रश्न के उत्तर में मंत्री जी ने दो जानकारियां दी है – पहली यह कि सरकार ने कम खरीद को देखते हुए, 5.11 लाख टन गेहूं का आयात करने का निर्णय लिया है और दूसरी जानकारी यह दी है कि उन्होंने यहां प्रदेशवार सूची दी है कि किस प्रदेश में गेहूं का कितना उत्पादन इस साल हुआ और वहां पर इस साल कितनी खरीद हुई ? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बिहार में 35 लाख टन उत्पादन के विरूध्द कोई भी खरीद नही हुई है, मध्य प्रदेश में 71.59 लाख टन के उत्पादन के विरुध्द, मात्र 57,000 टन की खरीद हुई है । महाराष्ट्र में 17 लाख टन से ज्यादा उत्पादन हुआ है, लेकिन खरीद बिल्कुल नही हुई है और राजस्थान में 69 लाख टन के मुकाबले में केवल 3 लाख टन की खरीद हुई है । इसी तरह उत्तर प्रदेश में 250 लाख टन उत्पादन के विरुध्द मात्र 5 लाख टन खरीद हो सकी है । खरीद के ये आंकड़े, उत्पादन के विरूध्द इतने कम है **...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put the question please.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : मैं प्रश्न पर ही आ रहा हूं । खरीद के ये आंकड़े उत्पादन के विरुध्द इतने कम हैं, इसका मूल कारण यह है कि जब हम अपनी MSP रखते हैं, तो वह इतनी कम होती है कि दरअसल वह MSP न होकर, उसके गले की फांसी बन जाती है । उसकी उत्पादन लागत ज्यादा आती है और उसको पैसा कम मिलता है । जब हम बाहर से खरीद करते हैं, तो ज्यादा आती है और उसको पैसा कम मिलता है । जब हम बाहर से खरीद करते है, तो पिछले साल के आंकड़ों के हिसाब अपने देश के अंदर किसानों को 750 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल की कीमत दी है, लेकिन जब बाहर से हमने गेहूं आयात किया, बाहर से खरीदा, तो वह 1,100 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल पर खरीदा है । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात का उपाय करेंगे कि किसानों को देश के अंदर उनके गेहूं की कीमत, आयातित गेहूं कि कीमत से कम न मिले, इस बात को सुनिश्चित करने

का क्या सरकार निर्णय लेगी ? श्रीमन हमारे यहां गेहूं की कमी नही है, पूरे देश के अंदर आज भी गेहूं पर्याप्त मात्रा में है, अगर किसान को सही कीमत मिले, तो सरकार के पास इसके भंडारण में कोई कमी नही होने वाली है। माननीय मंत्री जी इसके लिए क्या करने जा रहे है, जरा बताएं...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: This has to be discussed separately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let the Minister reply.

श्री शरद पवार : सभापति जी, भारत सरकार ने इस बारे में कोई ऐसी बात तय नही की थी कि हम यहां तक प्रोक्योर करेंगे । स्टेट गवर्नमेंटस के प्रतिनिधियों की जो मीटिंग हुई और उसमें स्टेट गवर्नमेंटस के जो representatives आए थे, उन्होंने अपनी-अपनी स्टेट के बारे में जो सुझाव सरकार के सामने दिए, इसके मुकाबले में 150 लाख टन प्रोक्योरमेंट होने की संभावना है, यह बात राज्य सरकारों ने भारत सरकार को बतलाई। इनमें से actually, जैसा मैंने कहा कि 111 लाख टन ही इसमें purchase हुआ है। purchase करने की ,प्रोक्योरमेंट करने की पूरी जिम्मेदारी एफ.सी.आई के साथ है, मगर एफ.सी.आई. का काम हर राज्य सरकार वहां करती है, वहां की कोऑपरेटिव सोसायटी करती है । यह बात सच है कि जो टोटल प्रोक्योरमेंट हुआ, इसमें सबसे ज्यादा कंट्रीब्यूशन परसेंटवाइज़ हरियाणा का है । हरियाणा के बाद पंजाब का है और बाकी अन्य राज्यों में, जो यहां आंकड़े दिए गए, वहां इतना प्रोडक्शन है, मगर प्रोडक्शन होने के बावजूद वहां प्रोक्योरमेंट ठीक तरह से हुआ नही हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : क्यों? सवाल वही है कि क्यों?

श्री शरद पवार : मैं बताता हूं, दो –तीन बातें हैं, बताता हूं । ...(**व्यवधान**)... एक बात ऐसी है...(**व्यवधान**)... इसमें एक बात ऐसी है कि वहां...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : इसमें यू.पी.ए. एन.डी.ए. मत डालिए, वरना बात बहुत बढ़ जाएगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, let the Minister continue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शरद पवार : यहां राज्य सरकार के ठीक तरह से सहयोग की आवश्यकता होती है। आपने यहां मध्य प्रदेश के आंकड़े दिए। एक बात को मुझे यहां स्वीकार करना पड़ेगा कि मध्य प्रदेश में जिस तरह का गेहूं तैयार होता है, उसकी कीमत इस देश के बाकी के सब राज्यों के गेहूं से अधिक होती है ।इसकी क्वालिटी अच्छी होती है इसलिए generally मध्य प्रदेश से हमें कभी ठीक तरह से प्रोक्योरमेंट का सपोर्ट नही मिलता है। आपको पिछले पच्चीस सालों के आंकड़े देखने के बाद यह पता लगेगा।

राजस्थान में पिछले साल प्रोक्योरमेंट कम हुआ था, इस साल उससे थोड़ा ज्यादा हुआ, मगर मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि इस साल हरियाणा का प्रोक्योरमेंट क्यों बढ़ा? हरियाणा सरकार ने इतनी सख्ती से कदम उठाए कि वहां गेहूं collect करने के लिए अपनी पूरी मशीनरी दे दी, इसलिए वहां ठीक तरह से प्रोक्योरमेंट हुआ । बाकी अन्य राज्यों में ...(**व्यवधान**)... बाकी अन्य राज्यों में स्थिति यह है कि पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा सेंट्रल पूल से जरूर मिलना चाहिए और जब प्रोक्योरमेंट करना है, तो कम से कम जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिए। इसका असर प्रोक्योरमेंट के टोटल स्टॉक पर होता है, जिसमें कई राज्य उसमें आते है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति : प्लीज...(**व्यवधान**)... प्लीज़।

श्री शरद पवार : नंबर दो...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री विनय कटियार : रेट का सवाल है यहां पर । **...(व्यवधान)...** यह किसानों का सवाल है । **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सभापति महोदय**...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister Proceed with the answer.

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : मैंने सिर्फ यह पूछा था कि क्या आज जो किसानों को गेहूं की कीमत दी जा रही है**...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request the hon. Member to let the Minister proceed with the answer. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : श्रीमान, मैं आन्सर सुन रहा हूं, पर जो प्रश्न मैंने किया था, उसका जवाब नही आया है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : मैं केवल यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो कीमत किसानों को दी जा रही थी, क्या वह आयातित गेहूं की कीमत के बराबर है?**...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. *... (Interruptions)...*

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल : सर, सवाल यह है कि उसका जो रेट है**...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री सभापति : सुनिए, उनको सुन लीजिए आप । **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री शरद पवार : मैं सदन को यह बताना चाहता हूं कि **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी : सभापति महोदय, अगर हमारे प्रश्न का उत्तर नही आएगा, हम आपसे संरक्षण चाहेंगे । महोदय, अगर हमारे प्रश्न का उत्तर नही आएगा, हमें आपसे संरक्षण चाहिए ।

श्री सभापति : आप उनको सुन लीजिए । **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री विनय कटियार : सभापति जी, ये कह रहे हैं कि किसानों को**...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री सभापति : एक मिनट **...(व्यवधान)...** देखिए, दूसरे लोग भी सवाल पूछना चाहते है, आप मेहरबानी करके बैठिए । **...(व्यवधान)...** प्लीज़ **...**Let the Minister continue. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the hon. Member has put four questions. It is my responsibility to provide the information to the House. So far as first two questions are concerned, I have already provided the information. The third question is about the Minimum Support Price. I would like to tell the House, if you study the prices of the last five years, in the first three years, prior to this Government coming to power... *(Interruptions).*

श्री विनय कटियार : आप विदेश की कीमत तो दीजिए । **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री तारिक अनवर : सुनिए**....** जरा reply सुनिए आप ।**...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

श्री तारिक अनवर : पहले reply सुनिए, उसके बाद क्वेश्चन कीजिए ।**...(व्यवधान)...** जवाब सुनिए पहले ।**...(व्यवधान)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request you ... *(Interruptions).* सुनिए**...**सुनिए, वे जो कहने जा रहे है, वह सुन लीजिए । It is important. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions).* The Minister is going to say something relevant to the supplementary. Please listen.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, prior to this Government coming into power, each year the price given was Rs.10. S.ince 2005-06, ?*Ff ^*m* f3rr 11 In 2005-06, instead of giving Rs. 10, this Government gave Rs. 50. In the next year, including bonus, an additional price of Rs. 150 per quintal was given; such a price had never been given in the last number of years. When we took a decision to give it at Rs. 850, that is, on 15th March, 2007, at that time, the international price was 168.30 dollars. That comes to Rs. 743.72 per quintal. So, when the price in the U.S. Chicago market was Rs.743, at that time, this Government had taken a decision to give it at Rs. 850. It is true that, as of today, the position in the international market has changed. It is true that the prices are going high. That is why whenever we take a decision on imports, there is an effect here; I do not want to deny that. But whatever decision has been taken by this Government has definitely been in the interest of farmers. I would like to assure the House that for next year also this Government would give a substantial price for rice and wheat to the farming community of the country.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the hon. Minister is just trying to prolong it by talking about the previous regime and a1l that. My simple supplementary is this. What is the price given to the farmer in India and what is the price at which we are importing wheat? This is No.l. No.2 is; it is happening because of the inaction of the procurement agencies. Now, there is a shortfall which has necessitated the import of wheat, and it has created a peculiar situation. Importing wheat means importing unemployment. What is the remedy for this? Is the Minister seriously thinking on this rather than passing the buck and blaming this Government or that Government. We are facing such a situation. These are my direct supplementaries. Please answer them. No.l is: Is there a variation in the international price and the domestic price? No. 2 is: Why did we not procure in time? Why did we just keep quiet and failed in our responsibility resulting in such a situation?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is a simple thing. The Government of India took a decision to write to the State Governments directing them to make amendment in the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act. There was a compulsion that a farmer had to sell his produce to the regulated market. That compulsion has been removed. It is a deliberate, conscious action because the farmer is eligible to get a proper price. In this country, anybody can produce anything and he has got every right to sell it anywhere in the country at any price. Then why is our farmer not getting that opportunity? That is the reason why this decision has been taken. It is true that it affects the procurement of the FCI. But, this year, as I said, when the Government of India announced the price of wheat at Rs. 850 per quintal, at that time, the price in the U.S.A. Chicago market was around 168 dollars per quintal. So, the Government's decision was also correct, and it was more than the international price. It is true, as I said, that in the last few months, there is a change; there is a

variation. There is price rise in the international market. There are a number of reasons for it, and because of that, as of today, the price has gone up much more than what we pay. The total amount, which has been paid to the farmer, is Rs.850 plus mandi charges, plus the package and transport charges to the place of destination; supposing it is for Delhi, it is somewhat near to Rs.1100. And, it is true that in respect of 5.1 lakh tonnes that have been imported to the Southern States, the cost is somewhat nearer to Rs. 1200. It is also true that this is more than what we have paid to the farmers. But since it is a question of food security, we are not in a position to compromise on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Uday Pratap Singh...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I am not putting any more supplementaries. 1 have just one request...*(Interruptions)* I seek your indulgence. My request is this. Such an important issue needs to be discussed in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make a request under the appropriate rule, and it will be considered. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the question proceed. Shri Uday Pratap Singh.

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह : सभापति महोदय मैं एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण और चिंताजनक सवाल इस संबंध में पूछना चाहता हूं । यू.एस.ए. की एक व्हीट एसोसिएट प्रोडयूसर्स एसोसिएशन है । उसने बहुत पहले यह प्रिडक्शन कर दिया कि अब के भारत सरकार 30 लाख टन गेहूं खरीदेगी । उसने यह प्रिडक्शन तब किया जबकि देश में गेहूं की पैदावार बहुत अच्छी होने की संभावना थी और इसको सरकार ने स्वीकार भी किया था । हमारा सीधा प्रश्न यह है जो एक विदेशी कम्पनी को कैसे पता चल गया कि भारत सरकार अब के इतना गेहूं खरीदेगी । तो उसने 30 लाख टन कहा और आपने 51 लाख टन से भी ज्यादा गेहूं खरीदा । इसलिए सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी जी ने जो सवाल किया था उसके पीछे कहीं यही तो नही है मामला ।**...(व्यवधान)...** आप उनको जवाब देने दीजिए । बागड़ोदिया साहब, जब आप मिनिस्टर हो जाएंगे तब आपसे पूछेंगे ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, put your question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is an organisation called the International Greens Council. The International Greens Council collects information regarding production of foodgrains such as wheat and rice from all over the world. Every year they make an assessment and come to the conclusion that in such and such State there is a possibility of import. It is true that they have referred to the fact that India might import. But as I said, there was gap between total procurement and total demand. With whatever had been procured plus last year's carry-over, it was just possible to take care of the Public Distribution System. But we don't just take care of the Public Distribution System alone; a number of times there are also emergencies in some States. For instance, even today, in a State like Bihar, there is an emergency because of floods and because of heavy rains over the last two or three days. I received a request from the Chief Minister of Bihar for an additional three lakh tonnes of foodgrains. We had to sanction that and we have sanctioned it and decided to release additional three lakh tonnes of foodgrains. So, there are these types of emergencies which we have to face every year. That is why we have decided to keep sufficient bufferstock. If the bufferstock is riot sufficient, then there is no other alternative but to import so as to take care of the bufferstock.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. The Minister was quite right in saying that last year a restriction on purchase by private traders was removed and, therefore, the farmers got a good price. I have had occasion to compliment the Minister on that. This year the question is: why was it that restriction was put on private traders' entry into the market? We have enquired in Punjab and Haryana and found that the extra effort put in by Haryana was in the nature of giving instructions to Divisional Commissioners to ensure that private traders do not enter the market. The second part is: why was a ban put on taking open positions on Futures Market where farmers could have got a much better price? In fact, if that ban had not been put, the price that farmers could have got today...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question. We are running out of time.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There was only one Order issued by the Government of India. The Order was, if any private trader was going to buy more than 50,000 tonnes, he had only to report—he was not banned—to the local Government agency that he had purchased such and such quantity. There was no other restriction. It is true that the Punjab Government or the Haryana Government has helped the Government of India in procurement. But they never introduced any restriction or put any ban on the farmer. So far as the second issue which has been mentioned here is concerned, in fact, that was the demand made in this very House that we should remove wheat from Futures Market. Government has appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen to report whether we should continue the same policy or make any changes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Allocation of wheat under PDS

†*82. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 14.4 million tonne wheat was allocated during the year 2006-07 under PDS and other welfare schemes;

(b) if not, the quantity of the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of this allocated quantity only 10.3 million tonne wheat was lifted,

(d) if not, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether it is also a fact that during the month of June of the current year also, the allocated quantity was not fully lifted; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.